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MR. LAWSON: Mr. Ochs.

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MR. OCHS: Human histories along with social

9 norms against cannibalism or killing your own children or  
10 what have you, which took thousands of years for civilization  
11 to develop such social norms, I would like to suggest our  
12 generation add a new one. Only 50 years of nuclear history  
13 that humanity should cease creating permanently poisonous  
14 waste that has no safe depository.

1 15 [ The Yucca Mountain project will give a false  
16 sense of security which continues -- which encourages the  
17 continuation of generating nuclear waste. ] It's not just a  
18 matter of shutting down nuclear plants if they don't have a  
19 repository for the waste. I'm from Baltimore, and Calvert  
20 Cliffs looks like they are on a fast track to relicense and  
21 run the plant for 40 more years. And Duke Energy is right  
22 behind them, and other plants are getting in line to run the

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1 nuclear power plants beyond the original design lifetime for  
2 the plants.

3                   So Yucca Mountain not only is giving a false  
4 sense of security but encouraging unsafe -- unsafe generation  
5 even after TMI. [ The no action scenarios are not status quo,  
2 6 as was mentioned by some speakers. The no action scenarios  
7 require local action. I'm from Baltimore. I'm a member of  
8 the -- of Maryland Safe Energy Coalition. We have been  
9 active for 10 years against unsafe nuclear energy. And I  
10 would speak as a lesser of evils for local stewardship, I  
11 think local stewardship of nuclear waste is morally and  
12 ethically justified. Because those who have benefited from  
13 the nuclear power are the ones who should have responsibility  
14 for all the ramifications of that nuclear power. Since there  
15 is no absolutely safe solution, it is a lesser of evils. ]

3 16                   [ But monitored underground retrievable  
17 storage has not been mentioned yet that I could remember.  
18 But to have monitored underground retrievable storage in or  
19 near the generating sites would be morally and ethically  
20 justified. Because if you stick it out in Yucca Mountain or  
21 some other place, you have an out of sight, out of mind  
22 mentality, which discourages public knowledge and public

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1 responsibility for something they benefited from.

2                   The public has a right of stewardship, and  
3 long-term education of the public is very important. One way  
4 to do that is to have them be responsible for their own waste  
5 and not stick it out of sight, out of mind, which could be  
6 very dangerous if the public loses sight or collective memory  
7 of what they have created or helped create.

8                   The Public Service Commissioner from  
9 Michigan said power plants were not intended storage sites.  
10 A lot of things weren't intended. Plants weren't intended to  
11 go for more than 40 years, but that looks like it's going to  
12 happen. Nuclear energy was not intended to be expensive, but  
13 now it's more expensive than wind energy. TMI meltdown was  
14 not intended. There's a lot of things that weren't intended.  
15 But we are looking at a situation now that requires some  
16 creative thinking and -- which goes against some intentions.

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17                   Now, the rush to Yucca Mountain is based on  
18 erroneous claim that our generation must take responsibility  
19 of our own waste and not foist it on our children. But think  
20 about this for a minute. Isn't it better to allow future  
21 generations the opportunity to monitor and control its  
22 environment than to condemn them to an uncontrollable

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1 irretrievable environment of nuclear waste? ]

2 MR. LAWSON: 30 seconds please.

3 MR. OCHS: Now, I heard some fellow union  
4 members get up here today and talk about jobs. I'm a union  
5 member. I'm a former union representative, and I say while  
6 union officers are -- it's their duty to protect union jobs,  
7 it's also our duty to have the public benefit in the larger  
8 picture. Because if you carry their logic to the extreme,  
9 should the holocaust have been continued just to employ  
10 German officers and pinnacle workers, of course not. That  
11 carries the logic to its extreme.

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12 The U.S. needs energy. The union brothers  
13 got up here and appealed we need this energy. [ But what about  
14 stopping the squander of energy? This country squanders more  
15 energy than any country on earth. What about energy  
16 conservation? What about safe renewables? ] Let's all think  
17 about that. Thank you very much.